
CES-WELCOME BABY PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Durham Center (Mental Health) solicited a successor agency for the Welcome Baby Program, a family resource center for Durham County parents and children (birth to 5 years old). The request was to transition the current components of the program and the funding assigned that program to a new organization. On June 10, 2003, the Area Mental Health Board awarded the program to Cooperative Extension Service. This program includes newborn support services, parent education for families of children 0 to 5, car seat safety programs, and clothing and equipment support for limited resource caregivers. The program provides services to over 5,000 county citizens annually and is supported by 3.85 full time equivalent positions and over 2,101 volunteer hours. The program has earned a stellar reputation with both the medical community and families of newborns.

PROGRAM PLAN

The addition of the Welcome Baby to the family and consumer education programs of Cooperative Extension provides a comprehensive family education program for families of young children, with access to the state and federal resources of the Cooperative Extension System. The program is proposed to continue as designed in the Lakewood Shopping Center for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. Cooperative Extension will complete a strategic planning process during the current fiscal year for the purpose of integrating family and youth services currently assigned this department.